PREVENTION OF APARTHEID IN SPORTS BILL, 1988.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

MASSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1988

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1988, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th December, 1988.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Madam, I lay the Bill on the Table.

RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to you for permitting me to raise this matter which relates to the business of the House. It seems that the Treasury Benches are of the view that the business of the House is to be decided by the Government. This is not the first time that we in this House have felt extremely embarrassed and right up to the end no Member seems to know how long the session is going to last, whether it is to adjourn on a certain day or whether it will be extended. Today happens to be, according to the earlier schedule, the last day of the session and according to my latest information also, perhaps, the last day of the session. I do not know. But I would like to invite the attention of the Government, through you, to what are the rulings in this regard. I have with me "Practice and Procedure of Parliament" by Kaul and Shakdher. It specifically states about fixation of sittings on page 322. This, of course, relates to the Lok Sabha but it has a relevance to the Rajya Sabha I quote:

"After the Speaker has agreed to the suggestion of the Government regarding the duration of a session, the days on which the House is to sit for the transaction of Government and Private Members' business are fixed under the orders of the Speaker. For fixing a sitting of the House the Speaker's power is absolute and the consent of the Government is neither necessary nor sought."

On one occasion Speaker Mavlankar observed, whose centenary we commemorated only a few days back:

"This is irrespective of the consent of the Government and I believe, I have got the power of fixing the sittings from day to day".

I do not want to go into all the details. But over a period of time the Treasury Benches have come to usurp this power of the Chair and of the whole House. The Chair derives this power from the whole House and the Government seems to take it for granted any time right